

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A hermetic compressor comprising:
 - an electric motor unit;
 - a compressing unit driven by the electric motor unit; and
 - a hermetic container accommodating the electric motor unit and the compressing unit, wherein the compressing unit comprises:
 - a compressing room having an opening;
 - a suction valve disposed at the opening of the compressing room; and
 - a suction muffler having:
 - a suction muffler body forming a sound-deadening space;
 - a first communicating path communicating with the suction valve and with the sound-deadening space; and
 - a second communicating path communicating with the hermetic container and with the sound-deadening space,
 - wherein an opening, which is situated in the sound-deadening space, of the first communicating path, and an opening, which is situated in the sound-deadening space, of the second communicating path open in a substantially identical direction and in a horizontal direction,
 - wherein a wall of the suction muffler body has an integrally formed sound-insulating wall at a place at least forming an opposite vertical face confronting both of the openings of the first and second communication paths situated in the sound-deadening space, and
 - wherein the sound-insulating wall and the wall of the suction muffler body form a blocked space.
- 2-3. (*Canceled*)
4. (*Currently Amended*) The hermetic compressor of claim 1, wherein[::] the suction muffler is made from synthetic resin and formed of at least two components,
 - ~~the sound-insulating wall is disposed vertically with respect to an opening face of the suction muffler body, and~~
 - ~~the first communication path and the second communication paths open in a horizontal direction.~~

5. (*Currently Amended*) A hermetic compressor comprising:

- an electric motor unit;
- a compressing unit driven by the electric motor unit; and
- a hermetic container accommodating the electric motor unit and the compressing unit, wherein the compressing unit comprises:
 - a compressing room having an opening;
 - a suction valve disposed at the opening of the compressing room; and
 - a suction muffler having:
 - a suction muffler body forming a sound-deadening space;
 - a first communicating path communicating with the suction valve and with the sound-deadening space; and
 - a second communicating path communicating with the hermetic container and with the sound-deadening space,

wherein an opening, which is situated in the sound-deadening space, of the first communicating path, and an opening, which is situated in the sound-deadening space, of the second communicating path open in a substantially identical direction and in a horizontal direction.

wherein a wall of the suction muffler body has a sound-insulating wall at a place at least confronting both of the openings situated in the sound-deadening space, ~~and~~

wherein the sound-insulating wall works as a guiding wall for guiding gas sucked from the second communication path to the first communication path smoothly, and

wherein the first communication path is disposed above the second communication path.

6. (*Currently Amended*) The hermetic compressor of claim 5, wherein the guiding wall has a substantially U-shaped cross section, ~~and the first communication path and the second communication paths open in a horizontal direction.~~

7. (*Currently Amended*) The hermetic compressor of claim 5, wherein:

the suction muffler is made from synthetic resin and formed of at least two components, and

the sound-insulating wall is disposed vertically with respect to an opening face of the suction muffler body, ~~and~~

—— the first communication path and the second communication paths open in a horizontal direction.